

November 8, 2002
USSN. 09/913,317
Examiner: PARSLEY, DAVID J
Group A.U.: 3643

Remarks

It is observed that the Examiner rejected claims 22, 25, 29-30 and 34-35 as being anticipated by Gaughen (US-4,584,790) and also rejected claims 23, 26 and 28 as being unpatentable over Gaughen as applied to claim 22 above and further in view of US-4,786,550 to McFarland. Claims 24, 33 and 36-37 were instead rejected as being unpatentable over Gaughen and further in view of Kazemzadeh.

Accordingly, the applicant has drafted a first and second sets of claims wherein independent claim 43 recites, in addition to the features already present in original independent claim 22, that the cohesion treatment is performed by laying a layer of adhesive on the entire outer surface of said sod.

The second independent claim 62 recites, in addition to the features already present in original independent claim 22, that the cohesion treatment is performed by adding a bonding agent during mixing.

The two new independent claims are believed to be both new and unobvious over the cited prior art documents and examination thereof is respectfully requested.

In fact, as far as the feature of laying a layer of adhesive on the surface of the sod, the applicant draws the Examiner's attention to the fact that Gaughen does not disclose such step, since the glue that is lightly sprayed by Gaughen is not sprayed over the surface of the sod, but it is instead sprayed onto the surface of the paper whereon the seeds have to be fed from applicators.

In addition, in Gaughen, a further layer of paper is arranged once the seeds have been fed over the first layer of paper, thus sandwiching the seeds. On the contrary, in the applicant's claimed invention, the layer of adhesive is responsible for the cohesion treatment, without the need of using additional paper layer.

As to the second independent claim 62, it is submitted that also in this case neither Gaughen nor Kazemzadeh disclose any cohesion treatment being performed by a bonding agent in the meaning of the applicant's claimed invention as claimed in claim 62.

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In fact, Kazemzadeh only discloses the use of a liquid gel or other adherent medium in order to make the seeds coat the individual seed carriers or pellets. The adhesive medium is not used for a cohesion treatment of the sod, but only to make the seeds adhere to their support.

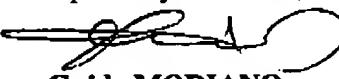
In view of the above, it is believed that the new independent claims are in an allowable condition as well as dependent claims thereof.

The applicant has also amended both the specification and the drawing figure 3, in compliance with the Examiner's rejections.

It will be noted that a sincere effort has been made to positively respond to all of the points raised by the Examiner.

While it is believed that the amended claims properly define the present invention, applicant would be open to any suggestion the Examiner may have concerning different claim phraseology which, in the Examiner's opinion, more accurately defines the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,



Guido MODIANO

(Reg. No. 19,928)

Agent for the Applicant

Via Meravigli 16

20123 MILAN-ITALY

Tel. +39.02.8590-7777

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Enclosures: New Drawing Sheet including Figures 1 and 3.